

to his neighbors. He can fix anything. He knows more about world events than most politicians. He still mows his own grass, even though he's over 80 years of age, and he has a strong opinion on politics and world issues. He gives plenty of advice to all people, including me. He has two computers in his home office. He sends e-mails to hundreds of his buddies throughout the world.

Dad and Mom still live in Houston not far from where I grew up. My dad is a charter member of the Greatest Generation. He was proud to be in the United States Army, but he, like many Americans of that generation, get emotional about the ones who died for this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, not far from this Capitol is the World War II memorial that honors those who never returned from Europe, Africa, the South Pacific in the great World War II. This memorial lists the battles, the names, and the States and the territories where those warriors called home. In the back of this memorial is a massive bronze-looking plate, but on closer inspection, Mr. Speaker, it's not a bronze plate at all. It's actually 1,000 bronze stars. Each star represents 400 Americans killed for our country in World War II, 400,000 Americans, mostly kids in their teens and in their early twenties who gave their youth for our future. Further down the Mall are the memorials for Vietnam and Korea, and in the brush is the World War I memorial that is hidden among the trees.

So today, Mr. Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day to honor those who have fought in the great World War II, and all American wars, we honor not only my dad and those who returned in victory, but also, we honor all those American heroes who never returned and for whom the bugles have played Taps for the last time.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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#### VOTE ON IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the American people want U.S. soldiers out of Iraq. A majority of Iraq's elected Parliament want U.S. soldiers out of Iraq. And I want soldiers out of Iraq, out of harm's way and out of the middle of a civil war.

This is what the American people elected us to do in November, knowing

the best way to support our troops is to protect our soldiers and get them out of Iraq.

Since January, 431 U.S. soldiers have died in Iraq; 83 American soldiers died in January, 80 died in February, 81 died in March, 104 died in April, and 83 Americans have died in Iraq so far in May.

Since January, 2,496 U.S. soldiers have been wounded in Iraq. In fewer than 5 months, the U.S. casualties in Iraq is already exceeding the number of soldiers who died or were wounded in Iraq in 2003. But the President insists we're winning. The reality is his stubbornness and intransigence has lost the war and the peace.

Outside my office, we honor the fallen heroes of the State of Washington by showing the photographs of 78 men and women killed in Iraq. Adding more pictures will not sustain their memory. We honor these fallen heroes only by protecting the living.

The way forward is not more casualties, as the President freely admits will occur.

The way forward in Iraq is not claiming phony ties to 9/11, fake intelligence, or outright fabrication, although these are the trademarks of this administration.

Demanding a timetable to get our soldiers out of Iraq, as I have done repeatedly, is the strongest support anyone in this Congress or country can do to support our soldiers.

I voted today to support U.S. soldiers by voting against a bill that approves an endless war and provides the President with a box of preapproved blank checks. A Nation does not support its soldiers by accepting more Americans killed and wounded in Iraq while carrying out the flawed mission of a failed presidency. The Congress does not support our soldiers by passing flawed legislation that supports a President who is totally out of touch with reality.

Spending more money in Iraq without a timetable to get out of Iraq only buys more casualties in a needless military disaster ordered by a President who can mislead, but not lead, America in war or peace.

The invasion of Iraq was and is all about oil. The one and only benchmark that matters to the President is for Iraq to pass an American-engineered oil law that delivers the oil wealth of Iraq into the hands of Western oil companies.

The President would not listen when a majority of Iraq's parliament signed a petition last week demanding a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. forces. That's because it doesn't matter what they think; only what the President and his neocon friends want. And they want oil. They want it so much that the President will keep the U.S. soldiers in Iraq until he can strong arm the passage of a law that provides cover for Western oil companies to control Iraq's vast oil wealth. That is the President's definition of mission accomplished.

The American people elected us to stand up to a President who is out of touch and out of control. Over 3,000 U.S. casualties ago, we were handed the gavel to lead against the President who had taken his Republican majority in Congress to suspend the coequal branch of government.

The President issued orders, and the Republicans bowed their heads and complied. We must lead, not capitulate.

American soldiers will never be safe as long as the President can order a military escalation in one breath and, in the next, predict growing casualties. The Iraq people will never be free so long as the President has the freedom to occupy their Nation. The American people will never be served as long as the President can go it alone in Iraq and in the halls of Congress.

The American people gave us a mission, but on this day, we have failed in that mission.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### FORMER U.S. BORDER PATROL AGENTS RAMOS AND COMPEAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today is the 128th day since two U.S. Border Patrol agents entered Federal prison. Agents Ramos and Compean were convicted in Federal courts for shooting a convicted drug smuggler who brought 743 pounds of marijuana across our border into Texas.

These two law enforcement officers, who have each given years of their life in service to this Nation, never should have been sent to prison. By attempting to apprehend an illegal alien drug smuggler, these agents were simply doing their job to protect the American people.

Although it is clear that the agents fired in self-defense, the U.S. Attorney's Office prosecuted the agents and granted fully immunity to the drug smuggler, who claimed he was unarmed.

This case is a black mark on the American judicial system. Despite countless pleas from the American people and Members of Congress, the President has refused to pardon these men. Every day and every hour that these agents spend behind bars is a travesty of justice. Instead of crafting deals to grant mass amnesty to illegal aliens who have broken the law, our government needs to get serious about border security and get on the right side of the law.

The prosecutor of this case gave an illegal alien drug smuggler immunity